

RURAL DISTRICT OF WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1968



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WELLS

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Deryck E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

S. Horkness, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

T. E. Mason.

COMMITTEES DEALING WITH MATTERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Committee

Housing Committee

RURAL DISTRICT OF WELLS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DEC. 1968

Tel: Wells 3379
Wells 2643 (Residence)

Area Health Department,
St. Lawrence Lodge,
37 Chamberlain Street,
WELLS. Somerset.
BA5 2PQ.

15th October 1969

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Wells Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for 1968, drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the new Department of Health and Social Security which took office in November of that year.

Earlier in the year, in September, the Area Health Department moved to more suitable premises at the above address which have proved easier of access from the constituent authorities of Area "C" (Mid-Somerset).

1968 also saw important changes in health legislation with the advent of the Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations 1968 and the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968. The former came into operation on 15th June and made Infective Jaundice notifiable whilst the latter, generally speaking, caused certain infectious diseases to be deleted from the list of those notifiable and others to be added; however, by the end of the year these Regulations had had little impact on the total number of cases notified.

Persons in the north of the District lost the opportunity to attend regular sessions of the Mass Radiography Unit in Wells and Shepton Mallet as these were terminated in September 1968, but efforts have been made to obtain at least a partial resumption of these services and persons in the south of the District, able to attend sessions at Glastonbury and Street, have not been affected.

As regards the vital statistics, these show a slightly lowered birth rate and a raised death rate but the latter is still better than the County or National figures. Infant mortality was the lowest for five years and there was no maternal mortality.

Much of the time of your public health staff was again taken up by the investigation of animal infections and their possible human spread, and visits to the elderly, particularly in respect of one case as detailed.

I am most grateful to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his Deputy for the Report on the environmental health of the District, and for their close co-operation at all times. My thanks are also due to the Clerk, Surveyor and Members of the Council for their courtesy and support, and to my secretary, Mrs. M.A. Paton, for the preparation and assembly of this Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D.E. CLARE.
Medical Officer of Health.

INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
General Statistics	3
Vital Statistics	3 & 4
Vital Statistics (5-Year Table)	5
Notifiable Diseases	5
Causes of Death	6 & 7
Mass Radiography Service	7
Notes on Vital Statistics	8
Notes on Notifiable Diseases	9
Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications	9
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959	9
National Assistance Act, 1948 (Sec.47)	9
Sewage Disposal	10
Water Supplies	11
Chemical Analyses of Water	12 & 13
Bacteriological Results	14
Water Supplies to Parishes	15 & 16
Inspections	17
Ice Cream	17
Slaughterhouses	17
Refuse Collection	18
Food Inspection	18
Distribution and Sale of Milk	19
Factories Act 1937 and Outworkers	19
Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957	20
Public Health Act 1936 - Legal Proceedings	20
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960	21
Meat Inspection	22



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30245941>

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres) ...	...	57,175
Population (mid-year 1968) ...	...	11,060
Number of Inhabited Houses ...	...	3,379
Rateable Value ...	...	£284,243
Product of a Penny Rate ...	...	£1,137 - 6 - 8d.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1968

(With comparative figures for Somerset and England and Wales where available)

BIRTHS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Wells R.D.C.</u>		<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
				<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
Legitimate	70	78	148			8,305	(Provisional)
Illegitimate	5	2	7			561	
Totals	75	80	155			8,866	819,275
Rate per 1,000 population				14.0	14.7	16.9	16.9
(Area Births Comparability Factor 1.05)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of local corrected birth rate to national rate 0.87							

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

(per cent of total live births)	4.52	6.3
---------------------------------	------	-----

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	-	1	1				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Totals	-	1	1			126	11,847
Rate per 1,000 live & still births				6.4		13.83	14.0
<u>TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS</u>	75	81	156			8,992	831,122

DEATHS

<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>							
(all ages)	90	116	206			7,531	576,601
Rate per 1,000 population				18.6	10.6	10.9	11.9
(Area Deaths Comparability Factor 0.57)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of local corrected death rate to national rate 0.89							

INFANT DEATHS

(under 1 year)

Legitimate	-	1	1			127	
Illegitimate	-	-	-			12	
Totals	-	1	1			139	14,952

(Under 4 weeks)

Legitimate	-	1	1				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Totals	-	1	1			99	10,100

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1968 (Contd)

<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 week)	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Wells</u> <u>Recorded</u>	<u>R.D.C</u> <u>Corrected</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England &</u> <u>Wales</u> (Provisional)
Legitimate	-	-	-				
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Totals	-	-	-			83	8,600
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>							
Total Infant deaths per 1,000							
Total Live births				6.4		15.6	18.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000							
Legitimate live births				6.7		15.29	
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per							
1,000 illegitimate live births				NIL		21.39	
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES</u>							
(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000							
total live births				6.4		11.02	12.3
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>							
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000							
total live births)				NIL		9.3	10.5
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>							
(Still births & deaths under 1 week							
combined per 1,000 live & still births)				6.4		23.24	25.0
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u>							
(including abortion)							
Number of deaths				NIL		1	
Rate per 1,000 total live				NIL		0.11	
and still births							

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 1964/1968

WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR SOMERSET AND ENGLAND AND WALES

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
1. <u>Corrected Birth Rate</u>					
Wells R.D.C.	17.34	16.6	14.91	15.0	14.7
Somerset	16.86	16.76	17.86	17.7	16.9
England & Wales	18.4	18.0	17.7	17.2	16.9
2. <u>Corrected Death Rate</u>					
Wells R.D.C.	8.07	8.75	8.73	8.26	10.6
Somerset	10.62	10.18	10.37	10.1	10.9
England & Wales	11.3	11.5	11.7	11.2	11.9
3. <u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>					
Wells R.D.C.	11.18	23.1	25.64	25.0	6.4
Somerset	13.0	10.75	15.12	14.0	15.6
England & Wales	20.0	19.0	19.0	18.3	18.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(5 year period 1964-68)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases Notified</u>				
	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	9	76	33	207	55
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	3	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	3	2	3	-	-
Tuberculosis - Non Respiratory	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-	2	5
TOTAL	24	82	39	210	60

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968
(As given by the Registrar-General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & upwards
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	-
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
	F	7	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4
Diabetes Mellitus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of the Nervous System etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	15	11
	F	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	26
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
	F	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Influenza	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5
	F	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	22
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Asthma	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Contd./

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & upward
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms & ill-defined conditions	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
All other accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Suicide & Self- inflicted injuries	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
All other external causes	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total all causes	M	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	14	34	36
	F	116	1	-	-	1	-	4	4	10	16	79	

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Owing to the low average number of G.P. referred patients examined and also to the consistently poor public response, the fortnightly visits by the Mass Radiography Unit were discontinued at the end of September. The figures below are therefore for the period up to that date. The number of General Practitioner cases attending was 27.

	Male	Female	Total
Number examined	101	140	241
Abnormalities detected	2	-	2

DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES DETECTED

	Male	Female	Total
Bronchial Cardinoma	1	-	1
Bilateral Hilar Adenitis	1	-	1

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1968

(Although as a general rule the figures are too small for much significance to be attached to them, nevertheless certain broad statements can be made.)

Population

The Registrar-General again gives an estimated increase of 40 over the mid-year population for the previous year, and deaths exceeded births by 51, largely due to the substantial elderly element in the population of the Mendip Hospital.

Births

Live Births decreased by 3 compared with 1967, with a corresponding slight fall in the birth rate which was again noticeably lower than the County and National rates. Illegitimate births however fell by 5 giving an Illegitimate Birth Rate lower than the County average.

Still Births totalled only 1 again giving a Still Birth Rate less than half that of Somerset or England & Wales.

Deaths

All Ages totalled 34 more than in the previous year but the Corrected Death Rate is less than that of the County as a whole or England & Wales. Female deaths again predominated over male deaths.

Infant Mortality - infant deaths dropped to 1 only and there were none in the first week of life. The Infant Mortality and Neonatal Mortality rates accordingly improved to figures less than half the County and National figures, whilst the Perinatal Mortality Rate was about a quarter.

Maternal Mortality - no mothers died in the District as a result of pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Causes of Death

Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Diseases with 110 deaths together caused the greatest mortality in the District, 13 more deaths than in the previous year. Diseases of the Heart accounted for 89 deaths and Cerebrovascular and other Diseases of the Circulatory System for 21.

Respiratory Diseases followed with 41 deaths, 18 more than in 1967 and it will be seen from the Table that most of these (22) occurred in women in the age group 75yrs & upwards with Pneumonia.

Cancer - deaths rose again, this time to 39 from 25 in the previous year. Of these, Lung Cancer led with 12 deaths, followed by Breast Cancer with 6 and Stomach Cancer with 5 deaths.

Accidents - deaths fell to 5 from 9 in 1967 and none of these involved a motor vehicle.

NOTES ON NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

It will be seen from the 5-Year Table that there is little on which to comment apart from the usual two yearly periodicity of measles.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING & HUMAN SALMONELLA INFECTIONS

No case of food poisoning or human salmonella infection was notified during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959

Brucellosis was reported by the County Health Department in a dairy herd in the District, but fortunately only a small amount of raw milk was retailed locally which the farmer agreed to give up, and as the bulk of the milk was sent for pasteurisation a formal heat treatment notice was not required.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SEC.47) & AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

An elderly crippled spinster living on her own in the District, who had to be removed from her burning cottage on Boxing Day 1966 and admitted to Fletcher House Part III accommodation, returned to her cottage the following summer. Here, her living conditions steadily deteriorated in spite of the help of the family doctor and the Area Welfare Officer until in March 1968 complaints were received by the Public Health Department from neighbours. Visits were made by the Chief Public Health Inspector and myself from time to time in an attempt to secure better living conditions for her but these deteriorated to such an extent, particularly the danger to life from another fire, that it was necessary on 4th October 1968 to apply for a Magistrate's Order to remove her to Part III accommodation. This was successfully carried out and on 21st October an application was made in the Wells Courts for an extension of the Order for 3 months. This lady now resides at her own request in modern Part III accommodation at Greenhill House, Cheddar.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

No village sewerage or sewage disposal schemes were commenced or completed during the year and the villages with sewers and efficient sewage disposal works are as follows:-

Wookey	
Walton	
Moare (central part of village only)	
Easton	} Joint scheme
Westbury-sub-Mendip	
Rodney Stoke	} Joint scheme
Draycott	
Butleigh	} Joint scheme
Butleigh Wootton	
Baltonsborough	

Because of surcharging of sewers in the village of Wookey an additional pump was installed as a temporary measure; this had the desired effect and enabled residential development to be resumed, having been discontinued for a time. It is realized however, that the sewage disposal works require augmenting and when this is done capacity will be provided for treating sewage from Worth, Yarley, Henton and Bleadney. These hamlets are included in the programme approved by the Council and will be provided with public sewers sometime in the future.

The work of connecting house drainage systems to the public sewers continued during the year in the villages of Butleigh, Butleigh Wootton and Baltonsborough. Approximately two thirds of all houses within 100 ft. of the public sewer have had their drainage systems connected. This has resulted in an obvious improvement in the condition of the ditches and watercourses as the volume of crude sewage discharged has been considerably reduced.

The previous report indicated that the Council proposed to proceed with a sewerage scheme for Coxley, the crude sewage to be treated at Wells City Sewage Disposal Works, Burcott. The Council's scheme was discussed with the Ministry Inspector at a meeting in December 1968 at Wells connected with the City of Wells proposals for extending their sewage disposal works. The Council's officials endeavoured to impress the necessity for the Coxley scheme on urgent public health grounds and the result of these efforts are still awaited.

The sewerage scheme for Wookey Hole and localities of Glencot, Elm Close and Haybridge was submitted to the Somerset County Council in February 1968 and the Ministry in November of the same year. Since then certain legal difficulties have arisen and progress is unlikely to be made until these have been resolved.

The Council's programme includes proposals for providing public sewers in the following villages:- Chewton Mendip, East and West Horrington, West Pennard, Dinder, Dulcote and North Wootton.

WATER SUPPLIES

The quality of water supplied to the villages during the year was satisfactory and no reports of shortages were received.

Bristol Waterworks Company have indicated that water supplied to consumers in the area, although obtained from many sources, is not plumbo solvent. Polythene pipes are mainly used now and the percentage of lead pipes in the area is relatively small.

The following works have been carried out by Bristol Waterworks Company during the year.

MAINS LAID BY BRISTOL WATERWORKS COMPANY

IN WELLS R.D.C. AREA DURING THE PAST YEAR

Size of Main	Length of Main - In Yards				
	2"	3"	4"		TOTAL
			AC	IRON	
Tappings Mains	274	1,998	1,411		3,683

1968

CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER FROM

Source	Total Solids	Chloride	Nitrate as N	Nitrite as N	Saline Ammon. as NH ₃	Albuminoid Ammon. as NH ₃	Oxygen Absorbed 3 hrs. @ 37°C
Honeyhurst	371	20	4.9	NIL	0.008	0.007	0.14
Priddy	239	14	2.7	NIL	0.005	0.005	0.09
Slabhouse	292	14	0.5	0.002	0.007	0.006	0.11
Southtown	486	23	0.6	0.002	0.006	0.007	0.15
Stoke Bottom	284	20	3.2	NIL	0.011	0.029	0.55
West Compton	465	18	2.5	NIL	0.007	0.007	0.10
Ebbor	134	16	3.5	NIL	0.007	0.007	0.22

SOURCES WITHIN WELLS R.D.C. AREA

Total Hardness	Calcium Hardness	Magnesium Hardness	Alkalinity	pH	Sulphate	Sodium	Potassium	Silica	Fluoride
316	247	69	282	7.2	30	8	1.9	6	0.05
199	174	25	180	7.3	11	6	1.5	8	0.1
221	193	28	221	7.9	29	22	3.6	8	0.4
362	301	61	311	7.1	86	20	2.6	14	0.3
229	192	37	191	7.1	22	7	3.3	10	0.1
413	289	124	369	7.4	50	11	2.9	8	0.05
99	82	17	69	7.2	25	8	0.7	9	NIL

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Year 1968

<u>Raw Waters</u>	No. of Samples Examined	Average No. Faecal Coliforms Per 100 ml	Average No. of Non-Faecal Coliforms Per 100 ml	Colonies on Agar 2 Days @ 37°C
West Compton	26	6	8	8
Priddy	26	1	2	3
Honeyhurst	26	0.2	0.2	34
Wellhead	25	18	23	64
Cheddar	20	41	80	34
Stoke Botton	24	1,355	1,422	445
<u>Treated Waters</u>	No. of Samples Examined	No. Free From Faecal Coliforms	No. Free From Non-Faecal Coliforms	% Satisfactory
West Compton	26	23	23	88
Priddy	26	26	26	100
Honeyhurst	25	25	25	100
Wellhead	25	22	22	88
Cheddar	21	21	21	100
Slabhouse	24	24	24	100
Stoke Botton	25	25	25	100
Southtown	26	26	26	100
Distribution System	141	137	136	97

Remarks The unsatisfactory samples at Wellhead and West Compton were due to insufficient chlorine after heavy rain.

NOTES ON WATER SUPPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL VILLAGES

BALTONSBOROUGH

Each inhabited house has a supply laid on.

BUTLEIGH

148 houses are supplied with main water and a few of the outlying properties rely on wells.

CHEWTON MENDIP

Most of the 180 houses in this village are supplied with water from the Waldegrave Estate Company's private supply. A few properties, because of their situation, rely on wells or rain water storage.

OUT ST. CUTHBERT

East and West Horrington - 89 houses out of 138 have a piped supply and the remainder are supplied from standpipes.

Coxley - approximately 153 houses out of 205 are supplied with water on tap and the only suppliers now are the statutory undertakers since a new main was laid for the benefit of the residents of Coxley Wick.

Burcott - few houses but mainly relying on wells.

Easton - this village has a main water supply. 81 of the 108 houses are connected to the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains and 24 rely on standpipes.

Wookey Hole, Elm Close and Haybridge - these groups of houses are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

Dulcote - some 45 houses of which 32 have a piped supply derived from a small private water system installed many years ago. The quality and quantity of this supply has been satisfactory during the year.

Chilcote, Worminster, Milton and Walcombe - these small groups of houses have piped supplies from various sources and their needs appear to have been met.

DINDER

55 out of 63 houses have piped supplies from the Dinder Estate Supply. This water is derived from springs which rise near Masbury Ring. The remainder of the houses are not within reach of the mains and have to rely on wells, etc. for their water. The Dinder Estate Supply is adequate in quantity for the needs of the village and the quality has been maintained by chlorination.

GODNEY

55 out of 76 houses have piped supplies from the mains of the statutory undertakers. The remainder of the houses have to rely on private supplies as they are not in compact groups or within easy reach of the trunk main.

MEARE

The Bristol Waterworks Company supply this village. 217 out of 299 houses have piped water and approximately 30 others are served by standpipe.

NORTH WOOTTON

72 out of 86 houses have piped water of good quality and unlimited quantity. The village is supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

PRIDDY

64 out of the 101 houses have piped supplies. The majority of this number are supplied from the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains but there are still a few obtaining water from agricultural systems installed by the Church Commissioners.

RODNEY STOKE

There are 274 houses in this parish and 249 are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company.

SHARPHAM

10 houses out of 30 have piped supplies. The remainder are not within easy reach of the main and have to haul water from one of two standpipes which have been provided.

WALTON

There are 217 houses, and all except the outlying ones now have water on tap. The total number of houses with piped water is 190.

WESTBURY-SUB-MENDIP

The total number of houses in this parish is 220 and 196 have main water.

WEST PENNARD

186 out of 204 houses have piped supplies. The remainder have standpipes within easy reach or rely on private supplies.

WOOKEY

A rather scattered parish comprising Wookey, Worth, Yarley, Henton and Bleadney. There are 345 houses in this village and 256 have piped water from the Bristol Waterworks Company's mains.

THE MENDIP HOSPITAL

This large hospital which houses over 1,000 patients and staff has its own water supply. The main source is two boreholes situated between Bristol Road and Watchet's Springs which provides the water for East and West Horrington. These boreholes are in the old red sandstone formation, and yield sufficient water for the very large demands of this hospital.

Arrangements have been made with the Bristol Waterworks Company to provide a supply in an emergency.

INSPECTIONS

The following is a summary of the inspections made during the year:-

<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	Nil
<u>Disinfectants</u> - supplied by Council	3
<u>Visits</u> connected with Suspected Food Poisoning Outbreaks	Nil
<u>Nuisances</u> - arising from foul and choked drains, foul accumulations, etc.	68
<u>Drainage Works</u>	289
Samples - of drinking water sent to the County Lab. for chemical analysis	6
Samples - of drinking water sent to the P.H. Lab. for bacteriological examination	31
<u>Petroleum Acts</u> - premises licensed under Petroleum Acts for the storage of petrol	50
<u>Visits</u> - re water supplies	54
<u>Bakehouses</u> (1), <u>Slaughterhouses</u> (4), inspected	65
<u>Public Schools</u> - inspected	22
<u>Dairies</u> - visits to	21
<u>Visits</u> - re food inspection	222
<u>Other Inspections</u> - under Housing acts	170
<u>Visits</u> - re refuse collection	79
<u>Inspections</u> - Ice cream premises	48
<u>Caravans</u> -	75

ICE CREAM

Premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream	Nil
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream	58

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The only licensed slaughterhouse in the district is well managed, maintained and complies with the structural provisions of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations. The premises are used several times a week for the preparation of meat for the retail butchering business attached.

All the meat produced on the premises was inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. Details of animals slaughtered and parts and organs found to be unfit for human consumption are contained in the schedule attached hereto.

For the purpose of the record there are no poultry processing establishments within the Council's district.

REFUSE COLLECTION

During the year there has been some slight agitation from new residents for the introduction of a weekly collection of refuse. All requests were carefully considered and a decision to continue the present fortnightly system made on the grounds that the needs of the district in this respect were adequately catered for.

A contractor is employed to collect refuse which is disposed of by tipping in a secluded quarry situated some considerable distance from dwellings. The refuse tip is kept free from rodents by regular inspection and treatment, in addition there is a plentiful supply of cheap material readily available for covering surfaces.

At the height of the holiday season indiscriminate scattering of litter occurs from time to time in spite of the provision of litter bins in main road laybys and picnic places. The travelling public is not entirely to blame as the litter bins, although perhaps the best of their kind, are not proof against gales, animals and birds.

One vehicle abandoned on a highway verge was removed and disposed of after following the procedure laid down in the Civic Amenities Act 1967.

Owners and occupiers of houses in the district can have cesspools emptied free of charge once per annum providing house drainage systems are unable to be connected to public sewers.

The demand for the service has been maintained over the period under consideration.

FOOD INSPECTION

Premises to which the Food Hygiene Regulations apply, i.e., broadly speaking premises in which food is stored, prepared, served and sold were inspected at regular intervals. Few changes in occupancy or ownership occurred and the premises being mainly owner occupied, were well maintained. No offensive practices were observed or formed the subject of complaint from members of the public.

The quantity of canned food surrendered and destroyed was relatively small.

No offences under Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 were reported.

DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF MILK

As they are responsible for the administration of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960, the Somerset County Council issues licences to all dealers of designated milk. However, certain producer retailers continue to be covered by the County Agricultural Committee.

There were seven distributors of milk operating from premises within the Wells Rural District Council area at the end of 1968.

One case of *Brucella Abortus* in dairy cattle was notified during the year. On being visited, the farmer concerned agreed to give up a small raw milk retail round and send all the milk to be pasteurised, so that a notice under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 was unnecessary.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	39	22	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises enforced by Local Authority	7	7	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	48	31	Nil	Nil

DEFECTS Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation in one instance - remedied on informal action.

OUTWORKERS There are 18 Outworkers in the District (concerned with wearing apparel).

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

Only one application for a licence to operate plant and equipment under the provisions of the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957 was received during the year. A report was duly submitted to the appropriate committee of the Council and the issue of a licence authorised.

There is at present a total of four licences in operation in the Council's district. None of the establishments are large and the quantity of waste food treated in each is relatively small. All premises to which the Order applies have been visited from time to time and found to comply in all respects with the requirements.

It is perhaps important to note that none of the establishments have been subject to complaints from the general public.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

All cases occurring under this Act were settled on informal notice.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

	No. of Premises	No. complying with Reg: 16	No. of premises to which Reg: 19 applies	No. of premises fitted to comply with Reg: 19
Grocers	40	36	40	40
Butchers	3	3	3	3
Catering Premises (including licensed premises)	43	38	43	43
School Kitchens	5	5	5	5
TOTALS	91	82	91	91

MEAT INSPECTION

Period - 1st January - 31st December, 1968
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	95	-	-	459	140	-
Number Inspected	95	-	-	459	140	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	Nil	Nil	6	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:	9.5%	Nil	Nil	1.3%	5%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally Condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of Meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Other	96	Nil	Nil	12	24	Nil
(c) Cysticercosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total (in Lbs.) condemned	96	Nil	Nil	12	24	Nil

